

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 19-33 are pending. Claims 1-18 have been canceled. New claims 19-33 have been added. No new matter has been added.

The title of the invention was indicated as being not descriptive. The title of the invention has been amended. The disclosure was objected to because of informalities. The fourth paragraph on page 7 has been amended in response to the objection.

Claims 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ofek et al. Claim 16 was rejected as being unpatentable over Ofek et al. in view of Fiacco. Claims 1-12 and 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ofek et al in view of Fiacco. Applicants traverse the rejections. Although claims 1-18 are believed to be patentable over the above references, these claims, however, have been canceled in favor of new claims 19-33 that better highlight certain features of the invention.

New claim 19 is directed to a storage server that provides a virtualized storage apparatus. For example, claim 19 recites, "wherein the storage server is configured to receive a first data request including a virtual address identifying a first location in the virtualized storage area from one of the hosts and generate a second data request directed to the first storage subsystem, the second data request including a storage address identifying a second location in the first storage area that is mapped to the first location in the virtualized storage area..." The recited storage server corresponds to a backend server that interfaces between the hosts and storage subsystems to provide virtualized storage. Fig. 1 illustrates an exemplary backend server 3. Ofek does not disclose such a server.

Nor does Ofek disclose the feature of "wherein the storage server is configured to change mapping of the first location in the virtual storage area to a third location in the second storage area in connection with a data migration operation." This feature relates to handling a data access request to a storage area from which data are being migrated, while the data migration is in progress. Ofek does not disclose a means of handling such data requests while the data migration is in progress. Fiacco does not remedy the above deficiencies of Ofek.

New claim 27 is directed to storage system including a backend server that provides a virtualized storage area that support specific data migration features. New claim 28 is directed to a method for providing a virtualized storage area with specific data migration features.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Y. Cho
Reg. No. 44,612

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
Attachments
SYC:syc
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